

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 014423

O P 031429Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8688

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

S E C R E T BANGKOK 18756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: KING SUDDENLY CHANGES HIS PLANS

EXDIS

1. A CONFIDANT OF THE KING TOLD THE DCM LATE DECEMBER 3 THAT THE KING HAD CANCELLED ALL HIS BIRTHDAY FESTIVITIES AND WAS DEPARTING PRECIPITOUSLY FOR A REMOTE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REST HOUSE IN KANCHANABURI PROVINCE. THE ROYAL DOMESTIC STAFF WAS SCRAMBLING TO SET THE PLACE IN ORDER. KANCHANABURI IS THE OUTBACK OF WEST THAILAND.

2. THE SAME INFORMANT MENTIONED THAT HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY HAD LEFT ABRUPTLY FOR AUSTRALIA. THE CROWN PRINCE IS STUDYING THERE, AND HAD PLANNED A TRIP TO THAILAND FOR HIS FATHER'S BIRTHDAY.

3. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING AT THIS JUNCTURE WHETHER THE KING'S ASTOLOGERS, IF HE CONSULTS THEM, HAVE ADVISED HIM TO GET OUT OF TOWN, OR WHETHER SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS IS BREWING. IF THE THAI MILITARY ARE PLANNING TO FIX SOME ORDER AMID THE CURRENT RASH OF LABOR STRIKES AND STUDENT STRIDENCY, THEY WOULD MOST LIKELY INFORM THE KING IN ADVANCE AND RECEIVE HIS BLESSING. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS MAJESTY, GIVEN THE MIASMA OF RUMORS CURRENTLY FLOATING IN THE BANGKOK ATMOSPHERE, MAY JUST BE EXERCISING UNUSUAL PRUDENCE.

4. COME DAWN, WE'LL CONSULT MORE TRADITIONAL SOURCES THAN THE
SECRET

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CRYSTAL BALL FOR A CLEARER READING, AND INFORM WASHINGTON.
KINTNER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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